

Updated Agenda

New Jersey Forestry Association

51st Annual Meeting - Saturday, March 21, 2026

Rutgers University



“The Courage to Care: Elevating the Art of Forest Stewardship”

This Meeting is Approved for 4.5 Urban & Community Forestry CEUs

This Meeting is Approved for 5.75 NJ Board Of Tree Experts CEUs

This Meeting is Approved for 4.5 Society of American Foresters CEUs

- 8:30-9:00 **Registration** and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-9:05 **Welcome/** Elmer Platz, NJFA President
- 9:05-9:15 **Introduction** of Guests and Collaborating Organizations / Andy Bennett, NJFA Director
- 9:15-9:50 **Dr. Bernie Isaacson** / Forest Scientist
“NJ’s Forests – the long history – ecologically, culturally, economically, and politically”
- 9:50-10:25 **Paul Catanzaro** / Professor / University of Massachusetts
“Tending Your Forest Through Ecological Forestry”
- 10:25-10:45 **Refreshments, Vendor Tables, Door Prizes**
- 10:45-11:20 **Carla Lee Lewis** / Landowner
“Adventures in Forest Stewardship: A Landowner’s Tale”
- 11:20-12:00 **Panel Discussion** / Bernie Isaacson, Paul Catanzaro, Carla Lee Lewis
- 12:00-1:15 **Lunch; NJFA Annual Business Meeting**
- 1:15-1:45 **Richard Kelsky** / Vice President, Director / NJFA
“Legislative & Regulatory / 2025 Review & 2026 Outlook / Impacts on Woodland Owners & Managers”
- 1:45-2:00 **Bill Zipse and Mike Hart** / NJ Forest Service
“NJ Forest Service Update – Public and Private Lands”
- 2:00-2:15 **Jeremy Webber** / NJ Forest Fire Service
“Fire Season – A look back at 2025 and a look ahead at 2026”
- 2:15-2:30 **Joseph Basralian**, Special Project Director, NJ Conservation Foundation
“Deer In Balance – Support for Meeting Your Land Management Goals”
- 2:30-2:45 **Student Presentations** / Stockton & Rutgers
- 2:45-3:05 **Refreshments, Vendor Tables, Door Prizes**
- 3:05-3:45 **Panel Discussion** / Having a Land Ethic
Paul Catanzaro, Carla Lee Lewis, Sharon Petzinger, Eliot Nagele, Doug Tavella
- 3:45-4:00 **Wrap Up**, Chainsaw Raffle, 50/50 Cash Raffle, Board Membership, Awards, Etc.